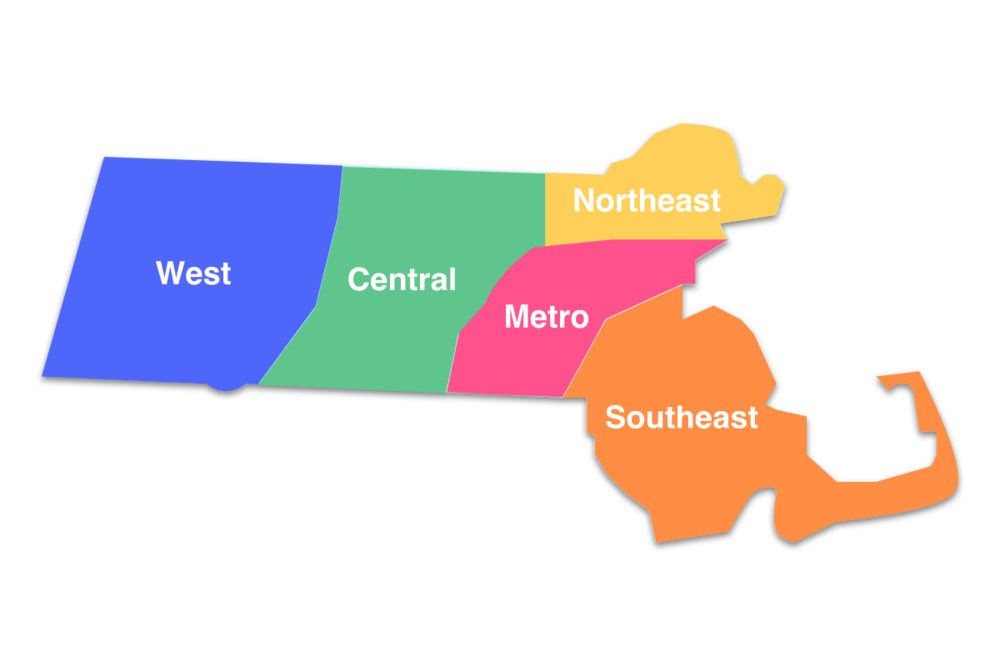


Central MA Opioids Fact Sheet



What are opioids?

Opioids are a type of drug that is prescribed to reduce pain. The frequent use of opioids can lead to developing tolerance and dependence.

In 2021, the total number of confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths per county were 282 in Worcester.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **City/Town**  **across**  **Central MA** | **Total opioid-related overdose deaths (2020)** | **Total opioid-related overdose deaths (2021)** |
| Worcester | 103 | 105 |
| Holden | 2 | 3 |
| Gardner | 4 | 11 |
| Dudley | 1 | 5 |
| Milford | 2 | 9 |
| Spencer | 2 | 4 |
| Rutland | 1 | 5 |
| Fitchburg | 19 | 17 |
| Leominster | 13 | 12 |
| Westborough | 2 | 0 |
| Webster | 8 | 5 |
| Leicester | 5 | 3 |

Between 2020 and 2021:

* Worcester, Holden, Gardner, Dudley, Milford, Spencer and Rutland had an increase in opioid-related overdose deaths.
* Fitchburg, Leominster, Westborough, Webster, and Leicester had a decrease in opioid-related overdose deaths.

This fact sheet provides the most recent data on opioid statistics published by Massachusetts Department of Public Health. For more information, please visit the website at

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/current-opioid-statistics>

What is the current situation in Worcester County?

Between 2020 and 2021, the total number of confirmed opioid-related deaths has remained the same. It has not changed from 282 reported deaths.